



# The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

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## *November 2021 Newsletter*

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### **Upcoming Meetings:**

**December 10:** Holiday party. AT SALVATION ARMY EDS! Show up around 6:00 pm

**January 14:** Wayne Michael, AC9HP, Parks On The Air (POTA) Presentation

**February 11:** Dave Arland's Annual CES Highlights

**March 11:** Jason Edwardson, from the Indiana War Memorial, USS Indpls Radio Room

**April 8:** RF Exposure Testing explained from ARRL

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### **Highlights from the November Meeting:**

The meeting was called to order via Zoom at 7:33 pm by club president David Spoelstra, N9KT. There were 25 in attendance. No new hams were present, and there were no tech questions posed.

David announced that the Dayton (Xenia) Hamvention is on for 2022, May 20 - 22. Some of those present said they have received their tickets for the Hamvention, replacing ones from the canceled shows.

Secretary/treasurer Ken Bandy, KJ9B, announced that club dues for 2022 are payable at any time. See more information later in this newsletter.

David talked about the December pitch-in dinner/party. David is sending out a Google survey. N9NIC would really like to get pictures of club members operating for a

presentation he is putting together for the party. See more information later in this newsletter.

The next order of business was the annual election of officers of the club. The slate presented was:

- President - David Spoelstra, N9KT
- Vice President - Dave Miller, K9RTT
- Secretary/Treasurer - Ken Bandy, KJ9B
- At-Large Directors:
  - Jim Rinehart, K9RU
  - Kyle Bandy, KC9GLR
  - Kevin Colbert, KD9MNB

There were no nominations from the floor. The slate as presented was approved by 21 of the 25 present.

Next, David introduced Patrick Bolan, KJ7ZSU. Patrick is the owner of Geochron. To give a little history of Geochron, Patrick said the company started selling their familiar mechanical clock in 1964. The company's current involvement with the mechanical clocks is primarily to refurbish ones that are sent in for service, although they do still occasionally sell new mechanical units. Most parts on the mechanical clocks are custom manufactured. Over the years, lots of movies have had Geochron clocks pictured in them. Patrick showed several pictures of Geochron installations, including with several US presidents, and in government installations.

Patrick explained that the current Geochron digital is a small computer that displays in 4K. He showed several sample screen shots of the various displays available on the Geochron. Something relatively new that Geochron has come up with is a Ham Radio premium bundle. There are several apps of interest to radio operators in this bundle, including this list as taken from the Geochron website:

- Live DX Propagation, updated every 10 minutes by band.
- ADIF Call Log display, easily uploaded through Geochron.com
- Maximum Usable Frequency, in topographic and heat map overlays.
- AMSAT Satellite Tracking, with selectable footprint.
- Maidenhead Grid, for contesting.
- Solar and Aurora Data, directly on the display.
- Call Sign Display, with adjustable font and color over the Geochron logo.

There are plans underway to soon have live logs from QRZ.com.

Patrick said anyone that subscribes to the newsletter at Geochron.com will be eligible for a 10% discount towards the purchase of a Geochron.

Patrick explained that he had seen a Geochron in the early 2000's. Then, around 2013, he bought a used Geochron that was broken, and met the owners of the company when he took it to them to be repaired. He bought the company just as the original owner was ready to retire, around 2015. A few years later, he found an electronics professor that had put together a small Geochron digital, and that was the seed for the Geochron 4K Digital.

At this point, Patrick took some questions from those in attendance. He said the base maps are updated every few years as necessary, with software updates pushed out as needed. Historical maps are not generally available, but may be made available at a later date. The monitor to display the Geochron 4K is furnished by the user, but can be practically any 4K display. Patrick strongly suggested only using monitors capable of at least 4K resolution. *[The first monitor I used with my Geochron 4K was only 1080p, and I thought it was acceptable. - Ed.]* Updates are provided “forever” for the basic layers. Premium Layers are: Earthquake/volcano for \$20/year; Ham Radio Bundle \$6.99/mo or \$69.99/yr; and Air Quality Index for \$3.99/mo or \$29.99/yr. The Geochron digital sells for \$449 retail. Geochron's web address is <https://www.geochron.com/>

The formal portion of the meeting ended at 8:20 pm, but there was lots of discussion among those that stayed regarding the Geochron.

## **Ham Radio News:**

### **RADIO CLUB HOLIDAY PARTY IS A “GO”!**

It's been since February of 2020 that we have met together, face to face, as a club. In that time, we have become rather adept at a thing that before March of 2020 many of us had not heard of, called “Zoom Meetings”. While the ability to meet “virtually” kept us somewhat in touch, and provided our club with some speakers that we wouldn't have normally had access to, I think I can speak for most of us when I say, “I miss seeing people in 3D”. So, put a star on your calendar on Friday, December 10 because that's the date of our IN PERSON Holiday pitch-in, 2021. The party will be held at the Salvation Army EDS Training Facility at 4020 Georgetown Road, just west of the intersection of Georgetown and Lafayette Road. Go to <https://goo.gl/maps/rjoKZqZd3DijTzFK7> for a map. Plan on arriving around 6:00 to renew friendships and mingle (dust off your callsign name tag, if you can find it). This is a “pitch-in” party, so if you haven't already,

go to <https://forms.gle/YJvjazE8MywUwoag8> to complete and submit the form that club president David Spoelstra, N9KT, put together so we can have an idea of how many will be at the party, and who's bringing what. Jeff Hammer, N9NIC, is again going to be putting together some fun activities for the party. **Along those lines, Jeff needs pictures of you operating (or looking like you're operating), or any radio related photos, especially "vintage" ones, so he can put together a slideshow for the party. Send your pictures to Jeff at [jghammer1@comcast.net](mailto:jghammer1@comcast.net)**

Also, there will be some gift certificates from equipment vendors available as prizes! (Everyone likes prizes!) Keeping in mind that we are technically still in a pandemic, use common sense, and if you're not feeling well on the 10th, don't attend. If you haven't been "vaxxed", give it some serious consideration.

## **CLUB DUES ARE DUE, AND PAYABLE VIA PAYPAL NOW!**

Club Dues are receivable at any time. Dues paid from now until the end of the year will apply to 2022 membership. Individual dues are \$20 per year, or Family dues are \$30 per year (all family members need to live in the same household). Dues can be paid with PayPal at [treasurer@indyradioclub.org](mailto:treasurer@indyradioclub.org). Be sure to send the payment as a "friend", **not for** "goods and services". This will prevent any fees being assessed to the payment. For those that don't have a PayPal account, you can send a check made out to "Indianapolis Radio Club" to Ken Bandy, 7405 E. County Road 900 N, Brownsburg, IN 46112. As of the writing of this newsletter, we have 17 annual members paid through 2022. To check your status, point your browser to <https://tinyurl.com/radio-club-members>

As an added incentive for membership in the club, at our in person meetings, we will have periodic door prize drawings for items such as gift certificates for equipment vendors, and such. Only up to date members present at that meeting will be eligible for these drawings.

## **SUPPORT THE CLUB VIA KROGER, AMAZON, AND FACEBOOK**

How would you like to support the Indianapolis Radio Club without it costing you anything? Well, when you buy groceries from Kroger, or make purchases from Amazon, you can do just that. The Indianapolis Radio Club is registered with both the "Kroger Community Rewards" program and the "Amazon Smile" program.

To use the Kroger Community Rewards Program:

Point your browser to <http://www.kroger.com>. Once logged into your Kroger account you can search for INDIANAPOLIS RADIO CLUB either by name or the club's designator of GE677 and then click Enroll. New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and a free rewards card. ***"Insider tip" from your editor: We always buy gift cards at Kroger for restaurants and other vendors we frequent. Gift card purchases always are worth at least double points toward gas discounts. Fairly often gift cards are worth 4x points. We quite often get a dollar per gallon gas discount. That adds up quickly when filling a 25 gallon tank!***

To use the Amazon Smile Program:

Point your browser to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-4968059> This link should take you to smile.amazon.com, and automatically ask if you want to support the Indianapolis Radio Club. Once you get set up to support the club with your Amazon purchases, remember to always go to <https://smile.amazon.com/> when placing your Amazon orders.

If you're a Facebook member, when your birthday is approaching, you will be given the opportunity to select a nonprofit organization to support. The Indianapolis Radio Club is one of the groups that can be chosen. You can select the amount that you are hoping to raise, and your Facebook friends will be given the opportunity to send a tax deductible contribution to the club via the Network for Good. There will be no fees withheld by Facebook or the Network for Good for these donations.

## **CONGRATS TO INDY UNITED FIELD DAY TEAM!**

Congratulations are once again in order for the Indy United ARC Field Day Team. The team, using the call sign of the late Mike Koss, W9SU, placed first in 3A category, under 150 Watts, with 5342 Q's for a total of 19,666 points. The team was made up of 32 members from various clubs around central Indiana. They also had a GOTA (Get on the Air) station operating under the call of W9RCA.

## **UPDATE ON 3Y0J BOUVET ISLAND, NOVEMBER 2022**

For those of us looking forward to the return of major DXpeditions, following is some information regarding the planned 3Y0J Bouvet Island DXpedition:

*"We have reached our first payment milestone for the Marama vessel contract. Today we have paid the first deposit, and with this payment we confirm our plans of activating the #2 most wanted entity Bouvet. We would like to thank each individual and club who has contributed to this payment with their upfront support, especially thanks to our Lead*

*sponsor NCDXF. It is a huge task and undertaking to go to Bouvet and we still critically need additional upfront support to close the budget.”*

To keep up to date on the latest from the 3Y0J team, go to <https://www.3y0j.no/>

## **UPCOMING INDIANAPOLIS AREA TESTING SESSIONS (check with sponsor before planning to attend)**

Bloomington IN 47401-5337  
Sponsor: Bloomington ARC Inc  
Date: Dec 04 2021  
Time: 11:30 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
Contact: William F. Wootton  
(812) 876-8689  
Email: [wfwootton@gmail.com](mailto:wfwootton@gmail.com)  
VEC: ARRL/VEC  
Location: First United Church 08-01 session full pre-register  
2420 E 3rd St  
Register at 11:30am  
Testing at 12 NOON  
Bloomington IN 47401-5337

Indianapolis IN 46254-2407  
Sponsor: Indianapolis Radio Club-W9JP  
Date: Dec 11 2021  
Time: 12:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
Contact: James K. Rinehart  
(317) 721-1458  
Email: [k9ru@arrl.net](mailto:k9ru@arrl.net)  
VEC: ARRL/VEC  
Location: Salvation Army EDS Training Facility  
4020 Georgetown Rd  
Indianapolis IN 46254-2407

Anderson IN 46016-2238

Sponsor: Anderson Repeater Club  
Date: Dec 21 2021  
Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
Contact: Stephen M. Riley  
(765) 425-4627  
Email: wa9cwe@arrl.net  
VEC: ARRL/VEC  
Location: Madison County EOC  
200 Delaware St  
Anderson IN 46016-2238

## **FEEL FREE TO SHARE OUR NEWSLETTER**

If you belong to any other radio groups, please feel free to share our newsletter with them. They can also sign up to be on our mailing list by filling out the form available at [http://mail.indyradioclub.org/mailman/listinfo/ircnews\\_indyradioclub.org](http://mail.indyradioclub.org/mailman/listinfo/ircnews_indyradioclub.org).

## **SEND ME YOUR HAM RADIO NEWS**

If anyone has any items for the newsletter, please send them to Ken Bandy at [kj9b@arrl.net](mailto:kj9b@arrl.net)

## **Signals from the Past:**

### **From the November, 1941 *Amachewer*:**

Electronics in Aircraft Engine Testing was discussed by Mr. Charles C. Cook of Allison's on the 10th of October. This treated the subject of testing with amplifiers and pickups for the point of and intensity of vibration in aircraft engines. This was a very interesting subject and was explained by the use of slides. Claude Richie presented the organization and workings of the Army with Radio as the communication medium. This was on the 17th of October while Claude was home on leave.

*Also in this issue was an ad for "A complete 10 watt phone transmitter and Sky Challenger receiver" for \$50 cash. That translates to a little over \$900 in today's dollars. - Ed.*

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## Upcoming Area Radio Events:

- TurkeyFest: November 27 at the Clay County Fairgrounds, Brazil, IN. Go to [www.w9uuu.org/hamfest/turkeyfest\\_2021.pdf](http://www.w9uuu.org/hamfest/turkeyfest_2021.pdf) for more details.
- Hamvention 2022: May 20 - 22, 2022 at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center. Go to <https://hamvention.org/> for more info.

## 2021 Officers:

- President: David Spoelstra, N9KT – [president@indyradioclub.org](mailto:president@indyradioclub.org)
- Vice Pres.: Dave Miller, K9RTT - [vp@indyradioclub.org](mailto:vp@indyradioclub.org)
- Secretary: Ken Bandy, KJ9B - [secretary@indyradioclub.org](mailto:secretary@indyradioclub.org)
- Treasurer: Ken Bandy, KJ9B - [treasurer@indyradioclub.org](mailto:treasurer@indyradioclub.org)
- Chief Operator: OPEN
- Dir. at large: Jim Rinehart, K9RU – [board@indyradioclub.org](mailto:board@indyradioclub.org)
- Dir. at large: Jay Kraus, W9TC - [board@indyradioclub.org](mailto:board@indyradioclub.org)
- Dir. at large: Jeff Hammer, N9NIC - [board@indyradioclub.org](mailto:board@indyradioclub.org)
- Dir. at large: George Taylor, KC9IKD - [board@indyradioclub.org](mailto:board@indyradioclub.org)
- Dir. at large: Kyle Bandy, KC9GLR - [board@indyradioclub.org](mailto:board@indyradioclub.org)
- W9JP Trustee: Jay Kraus, W9TC - [w9jp.trustee@indyradioclub.org](mailto:w9jp.trustee@indyradioclub.org)

## 2022 Officers:

- President: David Spoelstra, N9KT – [president@indyradioclub.org](mailto:president@indyradioclub.org)
- Vice Pres.: Dave Miller, K9RTT - [vp@indyradioclub.org](mailto:vp@indyradioclub.org)
- Secretary/Treasurer: Ken Bandy, KJ9B - [secretary@indyradioclub.org](mailto:secretary@indyradioclub.org)
- Chief Operator: OPEN
- Dir. at large: Jim Rinehart, K9RU – [board@indyradioclub.org](mailto:board@indyradioclub.org)
- Dir. at large: Kyle Bandy, KC9GLR - [board@indyradioclub.org](mailto:board@indyradioclub.org)
- Dir. at large: Kevin Colbert, KD9MNB - [board@indyradioclub.org](mailto:board@indyradioclub.org)
- W9JP Trustee: Jay Kraus, W9TC - [w9jp.trustee@indyradioclub.org](mailto:w9jp.trustee@indyradioclub.org)